

31 October 2005

I want to express my comment about the FCC eliminating the Morse Code completely as a requirement for an Amateur Radio License. I am against that. I believe that the requisite of a test of 5 words per minute should be kept for at least the Amateur Extra Class License.

The reasons I have to be against the elimination of the Morse Code as a requisite of any Amateur Radio License are many. But the two that I find more important are the following:

First, Morse Code is basis of our communications and integral part of our history and heritage as Radio Operators. It is the base of all of our radio communications that we have today. The Amateur Extra Class licensee should not only be a person knowledgeable in radio operations and technical matters, but also should have the knowledge of the base of our communications.

Second, we should know Morse Code for any emergency situation. Morse Code is not another kind of radio communications mode. It is the most simplest and effective way of communication still known to man. Morse Code can be heard and understood under adverse conditions when many other modes of communication cannot. CW transmissions (Morse Code) have the ability to be heard thru noise and static even when other modes like voice or even digital cannot. Morse Code being an international code, is standard all over the world, and can be understood by radio operators even when both parties communicating do not speak the same language. CW radios are of the simplest design, size and complexity in comparison to radios operating in other modes.

Amateurs should be ready for emergency communications, since it is one of our reasons to exist. But Amateur Extra Class Radio Operators; as the highest level of licensee in the United States, should really be prepared for emergency communications.

So I respectfully request the Commission to reconsider the idea of completely eliminating Morse Code as a requirement for an Amateur Radio License, and at least consider keeping the requirement of 5 words per minute for the Amateur Extra Class license.

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